

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Rep. Sam Farr (D-Carmel) has secured \$500,000 to fund the Monterey Bay Outfall Dry Weather Diversion project in the City of Seaside. The funds are included in the annual spending bill to fund the U.S. Department of the Interior, which passed today.

"Monterey Bay helps define many of our communities, and we must do our best to protect it," said Rep. Farr. "This project makes sure that harmful urban pollutants won't flow into the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary."

The Monterey Bay Outfall will be modified to divert dry weather urban runoff away from Monterey Bay, directing it to the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency wastewater treatment plant in the City of Marina. Design of the project has been completed, with the City of Seaside already contributing \$600,000 for project planning.

"I am proud to have secured money for a project that will benefit every person living near Monterey Bay and the millions of tourists who visit each year," Rep. Farr said. "This will help keep Monterey Bay pristine and preserve its beauty for our children and grandchildren."

Seaside Mayor Ralph Rubio said: "This is a perfect example of how intergovernmental partnerships can benefit the entire community and protect the environment as well. We particularly appreciate and applaud the work that Congressman Farr did and the leadership he has shown to secure this grant for the City of Seaside."

Other provisions in the 2008 Interior and the Environment Appropriations bill:

- **Climate Change.** \$266 million will go to basic research on climate change. Another \$50 million will be devoted to establishing a commission to determine areas of research and to begin fund that work.
- **National Parks.** \$2.5 billion will help reverse major declines over the last decade in staffing, visitor services and law enforcement capacity.
- **Fish and Wildlife Service.** \$1.4 billion will go toward conservation, protection and enhancement of fish, wildlife, and plants.
- **Fighting Wildfires.** \$2.8 billion will be devoted to the prevention and fighting of wildfires.
- **Clean Drinking Water and Waste Water Projects.** \$1.2 billion will go to the Clean Water

State Revolving Fund, Sewer and Water Grants and Rural Assistance.

- **Native Americans.** \$5.7 billion will go to the Bureau of Indian Affairs and to improving healthcare access and quality for Native Americans.

"This bill is a major step toward realigning government spending with taxpayer priorities," said Rep. Farr. "Domestic priorities have been neglected by the current administration for too long, and our Democratic leadership is more interested in listening to taxpayers and setting things right."

The Interior and the Environment Appropriations bill was approved by a vote of 272-155.

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